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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Ms. Margarita ESCOBAR LOPEZ

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* Documents E/CN.4/1997/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1997/L.11 and addenda.

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XX. DRAFTING OF A DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND ORGANS OF SOCIETY TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

1. The Commission considered agenda item 20 at its 62nd to 63rd meetings, on 14 and 15 April, and at its 67th meeting, on 16 April 1997. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 20, see annex .. to the present report. For a list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, see annex .. to the present report.

3. At the 63rd meeting, on 15 April 1997, the Chairman-Rapporteur, Mr. Jan Helgesen, introduced the report of the working group on the draft declaration on its twelfth session (E/CN.4/1997/92).

4. In the general debate on agenda item 20, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Chile (63rd), Madagascar (62nd), Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia) (62nd), United States of America (62nd).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for Australia (63rd) and Norway (63rd). The observer for Switzerland also made a statement (63rd).

6. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (63rd), International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (on behalf of Amnesty International, International Service for Human Rights, Pax Christi Internationalis, Transnational Radical Party, Andean Commission of Jurists, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Baha'i International Community, Federación de Associaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, Human Rights Internet, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, International Federation of ACAT, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, International League for the Rights and Liberations of Peoples) (63rd), International Service for Human Rights (on behalf of International Commission of Jurists, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, International Federation of ACAT, International Service for Human Rights, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Centre for Justice and International Law, Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America, Andean

Commission of Jurists, World Christian Life Community) (62nd), Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (63rd), Women's International Democratic Federation (63rd), World Organization against Torture (63rd).

7. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Cuba (63rd) and Malaysia (63rd).

Question of a draft declaration on the right and resposibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

8. At the 67th meeting, on 16 April 1997, the observer for Norway introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.101 sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechteinstein, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Colombia, Estonia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Slovakia and the United States of America subsequently joined the sponsors.

9. The observer for Norway orally revised the draft resolution by deleting, at the end of operative paragraph 2, the words "at its fifty-fourth session;".

10. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the representatives of Canada, Cuba and the Netherlands.

11. In accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications 3/ of the draft resolution.

12. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1997/70.